

NORTH CAROLINA'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a proud alumnus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I am pleased to join several North Carolina colleagues tonight in honoring our amazing Tar Heels.

It has been six weeks since the Tar Heels were crowned the 2005 NCAA Men's Basketball National Champions, but the news accounts of their victory still paper the front door to my office. My staff tells me that nearly every day a Capitol visitor spots the coverage and walks in unannounced to say that his or her children want to go to UNC. That is music to our ears.

We know it is not all because of the basketball program, of course. UNC Chapel Hill is a fine school with an excellent academic reputation. The university consistently ranks among the Nation's top public institutions, and last year, it joined Harvard and Stanford as the only schools with prestigious Rhodes, Luce, Truman and Goldwater scholarship winners.

It sure is nice to also be among the Nation's athletic elite.

The UNC team knows what it is to come back from adversity. The championship win was especially sweet for North Carolina's three seniors, who helped lead an impressive comeback from freshman year challenges to the glory of that final game, and we are well aware of the challenges next year's team will face without these seniors and some other fine players.

But Coach Roy Williams has led Carolina to victory once, and he is going to do it again, with the same spirit and heart and dedication that he inspired in this year's championship team. Coach Williams long ago established himself as one of the premier recruiters in the country, and the talented class of 2006 that he has landed, which already includes the number one point guard in the Nation, should give us all comfort that the future we are going have is a bright future for the men in Carolina blue.

So, Mr. Speaker, I suppose that tomorrow we may finally take that newspaper down off of the front door of my office and put it in a scrapbook, but I am not the least bit worried.

That championship banner hanging from the rafters in the Dean Smith Center in Chapel Hill will be there forever alongside the many other banners that recount the proud history of one of the most storied programs in college basketball, and it will not be long before we have new banners to take pride in and more good news with which to paper our front door.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I join my friend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) and my other colleagues tonight because I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the University of North Carolina's men's basketball team on their latest national championship. As has been already been stated, soon the North Carolina Tar Heels will be raising the school's fourth NCAA basketball championship banner in the rafters of the Dean Dome.

In North Carolina, college basketball is as much a part of our culture as barbecue and sweet tea. Children know whether they support Carolina or Duke or Wake Forest or North Carolina State before they can walk, and a good basketball season is almost a birth-right in North Carolina. It has been 12 years and a few close calls since Carolina's won a championship, but after a spectacular season, the nets have again been cut and another championship trophy is in Chapel Hill.

In the NCAA champion game in April, the Tar Heels defeated the Illinois fighting Illini 75 to 70 in an outstanding display of teamwork and outstanding talent. Led by the performance of now former players Raymond Felton and Sean May, the Tar Heels played strong basketball on both ends of the court, along with the other members. They were able to make critical baskets when the game was on the line and played tough defense that stifled their opponent when necessary.

Just 2 years ago, Coach Roy Williams came home to North Carolina to coach a Tar Heel team coming off an 8-20 season. His leadership turned a group of talented young men into great players with heart and determination. They made a commitment to work hard, to become a better team, and now they will join the ranks of other North Carolina basketball championship players, and the list is long, two of whom I will mention, Michael Jordan and James Worthy.

As the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) has previously stated, UNC is well-known for producing student athletes who not only succeed in the NBA but in every walk of life, and this is important, from the university with a rich history.

I wish the best of luck to the graduating seniors and expect that they will continue to have success in their future endeavor, and I am proud to join again my colleague the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) and my other North Carolina colleagues this evening in congratulating the University of North Carolina players, coaches and their fans on this singular accomplishment. Go Tar Heels.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA: A NATIONAL POWER IN COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there are a few things in life about which I am certain.

I am certain that the word "barbecue" means chopped pork with a vinegar-based sauce.

I am certain that ordering grits north of Richmond is a terrible gamble.

And I am certain that the order of the universe, the plan of salvation, provides that the University of North Carolina will be a national power in college basketball.

Mr. Speaker, it was tough for a couple of years, but order has been restored.

With the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE) I attended this year's Final Four in St. Louis. I honored the tradition begun by Roy Williams, who was then an assistant to Dean Smith, at the Final Four in New Orleans in 1982: I spat in the Mississippi River for luck.

I went to the top of the Gateway Arch, and I spat in Mississippi. I visited the Museum of Westward Expansion, and I spat in the Mississippi. I visited the old courthouse where the Dred Scott case was tried, and I spat in the Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I went through the weekend with a cotton mouth. At times I was dizzy from dehydration, all from the constant spitting, but my efforts were amply rewarded in the semifinal against Michigan State and in the final against Illinois.

North Carolina played tough defense. They hustled they played team ball and they won it all.

I am proud of my alma mater, and I am proud of our basketball program. I am proud that our program has always taken academics seriously, and even those players who left early for NBA careers have usually returned to summer school to complete their degrees. I am proud that our program has taken NCAA rules seriously, and of course, I am proud of our victories.

I want to congratulate the coaches and the players from the 2005 National Championship team, as well as the students, the faculty and staff, the alumni and the fans. I thank our players for the joy they brought all Carolina fans by their victory.

Next year may be tough, with our seven leading scorers all either graduating or leaving for the NBA, but Jawad Williams, Jackie Manuel, Melvin Scott, Sean May, Rashad McCants, Raymond Felton, Marvin Williams, but Mr. Speaker, I am confident that we will again be back to the Final Four and soon.

We have talented young players from this year's team, this last year's team, who are returning, who welcome to our program a strong class of incoming freshman. They are very talented high school juniors who are now contemplating scholarship offers and the opportunity to be part of the Carolina basketball tradition.

All these incoming players will come to understand what the Carolina basketball tradition means. It is about

winning championships, but it is also about making us proud, proud of them as athletes, as students and as human beings, and Mr. Speaker, it is about maintaining the order of the universe.

THE DREAM HAS COME TRUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, 9 weeks ago, 17 young men from the University of North Carolina stood here on the floor of this chamber. They came here to visit us in Washington and to visit our national Capitol during the ACC tournament.

Today, those same young men are now national champions. In the 3 weeks following their visit to Washington, they went from Chapel Hill to Charlotte to Syracuse to St. Louis where the road to the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Final Four ended, and with their reign as national basketball champions began.

As a double graduate of UNC, but more importantly, as a father, I was thrilled to be in St. Louis for the Final Four along with my colleague the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) and so many others, to witness the Tar Heels' triumph, that I also shared with two Carolina students, my sons, Joshua and Stephen.

□ 2130

Since they knew many of the Carolina players personally, we were particularly pleased to see this team soar from the agony of an 8 and 20 season 3 years earlier, to a 34 and 4 season that exemplified the very best in the Carolina tradition and the very best in collegiate basketball.

With the return of Coach Roy Williams to his alma mater 2 years ago, a rebuilding program began that ended in a storybook finish. Sean May, the son of one of the best ever in Final Four history, repeated his father's, Scott May's, exploits from the National Championship game of 1976. And Sean, on his birthday, April 4, became the most outstanding player of the 2005 Final Four.

It was a team effort, emblematic of the Carolina way, as former Head Coach Dean Smith would call it. There were a host of heroes:

Raymond Felton, the hard-charging point guard from the little town of Latta, South Carolina, which is just across the border from my small hometown of Lumberton, North Carolina, who made the critical free-throws, a steal and a rebound in the closing minutes to seal the victory over the University of Illinois in the championship game.

Rashad McCants, the All America swingman, whose blocked shot and steal and barrage of points against Wisconsin a week earlier in Eastern Regional propelled Carolina to the next level.

Jawad Williams, the senior who could do it all, offensively and defensively, and whose faith and character were a powerful witness.

Jackie Manuel, the 2004 defensive player of the year in the Atlantic Coast Conference;

Melvin Scott, the senior whose 3-point threat often opened up an opponent's defense;

David Noel, the critical cog in the Tarheels explosive machine off the bench;

Marvin Williams, the fabulous freshman phenomenon whose tip-in put Carolina ahead for good in the championship game; and all the rest of the players managers, trainers, assistant coaches, and other critical staff to whom we are grateful for their example of excellence, their patience, passion, purpose, and persistence, all characteristics that constitute the courage and the commitment of champions.

With five national championships, four of them since the NCAA officially started the tournament, as well as 16 Final Four appearances, 15 ACC tournament titles, and over 1,850 wins, the Carolina way is one that represents the very best of those attributes which so many other colleges and universities emulate.

My wife's sons and I were thrilled in March to host the National Champions at the national capital, and we now look forward to their visit to the White House. And we look forward to that long-awaited National Championship banner, when it is raised in the rafters in the Dean Smith Center in Chapel Hill this fall.

May God bless those Tarheels. Indeed, the dream has come true for those who wear Carolina blue.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, tonight we have all talked about how sweet and how wonderful it was for the University of North Carolina to be crowned as the NCAA Champions. But Mr. Speaker what makes this team so special is how well they exemplified what it means to be a team.

Winning the five games on their way to claiming their fourth national championship, three different players led the team in scoring and four players led the team in rebounding. Sean May certainly earned the honor of tournament MVP. But the road to the finals required the collective effort of the entire team.

After two easy wins again, Oakland and Iowa, Carolina fans collectively held their breath when the referee's whistle blew in the final seconds against Villanova. Fear of a shooting foul turned into the joy of a traveling

call against Villanova, and the Heels held on for the one-point win. A strong game against Wisconsin then sent Carolina on to the final game in St. Louis.

The game brought together the two best teams in the country. It was a fitting finale to a memorable season and an exciting NCAA tournament. Fittingly, the game was full of tension and drama until the waning seconds. Illinois showed the perseverance and will that had resulted in 37 wins, while Carolina showed the determination, the unity, and the cohesion needed to overcome a team that went undefeated for much of the season.

This Carolina team, Mr. Speaker, would have made Dean Smith proud, because they won using a primary tenet of his Carolina way: They shared the ball and they played unselfishly. By playing as a team, they led the Nation in scoring and assists, and they played at a pace very few teams could manage.

Therefore, on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District of North Carolina, my congratulations go to Coach Williams and to every member of the University of North Carolina basketball team. You have made us proud across our State and you have shown us the great benefit of working as a team. Congratulations and best wishes.

TRIBUTE TO ANSLEY MEADERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of my late friend and the former Mayor of Marietta, Georgia, Mrs. Ansley Little Meaders.

Known for her quick wit, gracious hugs and dedication to her community, Ansley committed herself to making a difference for the City of Marietta and its schools.

Born on one of Marietta's oldest families, Ansley graduated from Marietta High School in 1964 where she was a star on the girl's basketball team. After attending the University of Georgia, she married her high school sweetheart, Frank Meaders, and followed in her father's footsteps and spent more than 20 years in banking.

Upon the passing of former Marietta Mayor Joe Mack Wilson, Ansley was drafted by many to seek election for the city's top job. She won a special election in the summer of 1993, and was reelected twice more, thus serving for more than 8 years, making her the third longest serving Marietta mayor.

Ansley had a different approach to politics. She was determined not to allow any sort of partisanship to label her. When asked whether she was a Republican or a Democrat, she was quick to respond that she was a Presbyterian.

While mayor of Marietta, Ansley was known for her love of and dedication to